



GLENKENS
& District Trust

GLENKENS & DISTRICT TRUST

Annual Report & Accounts

2023 – 2024

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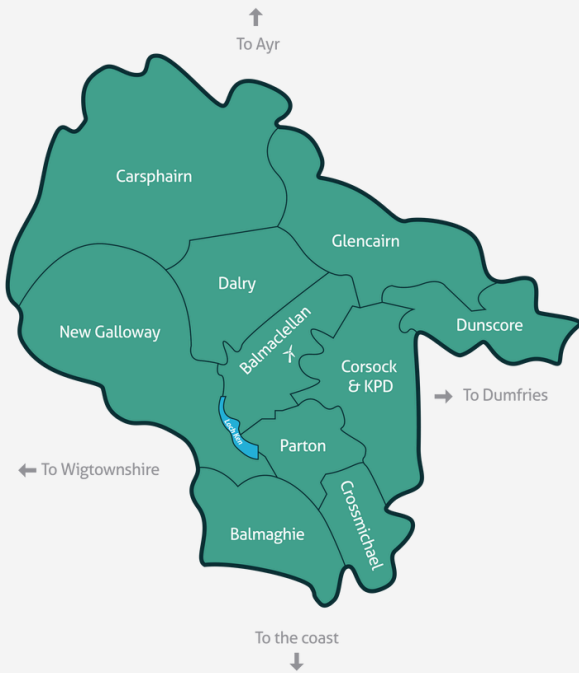
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Chair's Report



About the Glenkens & District Trust

It is now six years since I was appointed Chair and Glenkens & District Trust (GDT), a community-owned and led vehicle, took on the role of making decisions on how the community benefit monies from the Blackcraig Wind Farm should be used. Working in partnership with fund distributing charity Foundation Scotland, we have awarded over £1.3 million to local organisations to date and become a key organisation in our local area.

Community benefit monies have made a real and tangible difference to our area and we appreciate the support of our donors and the continued work of all our community groups. The availability of these funds can and does make a real difference to the communities we love and is a clear demonstration of the value of place-based decision making.

We therefore remain very focused on carrying out our activities effectively to secure the best outcomes for our area and the people who live here and to demonstrate the robustness of our approach to existing and potential donors.

In line with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles in relation to community benefit, our Fund Strategy is aligned to the priority themes in local Community Action Plans and, through a mixture of open grant making, commissioning and targeted awards, we have sought to maximise how we use the monies to support these themes and maximise the outputs. We always endeavour to communicate openly and transparently about all we do.

The year ending August 2024 has seen a number of positive developments. As well as the funds made available to us from Blackcraig Wind Farm, we now have regular funds from Schrodgers Greencoat Windy Rig Wind Farm both directly and via Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd. In relation to the latter, we also receive an amount towards meeting administrative charges which reduces the amount needed from the funds to meet some of our modest overheads.

Now that we have three sources of funds, we have made arrangements which enabled us to maintain a single entry point for applicants but still allows us to keep donors up to date on how their funds are being used.

Chair's Report

As reported last year, agreement has been reached in principle that GDT will distribute a third of the community benefit monies from Red Rock Power Ltd for Benbrack Wind Farm, around £112,000 per annum and we are close to finalising the legal contract to cover this.

However, the majority of funds we distribute will not grow in line with inflation, so the amount available for distribution will remain at c.£300,000 per annum for the foreseeable future. Any monies from Benbrack will not be payable until at least 2026 and other developments are unlikely to be commissioned until nearer the end of this decade and are all subject to obtaining the necessary consents and financing arrangements and in some cases transmission connections.

There is considerable uncertainty on the likelihood and timing of any future monies so our focus is on using our currently available funds to the maximum impact.

We have discussed over the last year and at our AGM how we maximise the outputs from these monies and, in particular, how we can support anchor organisations in our area to enable them to nurture community development. We also continue to play an active role in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group.

We continue to engage positively with donors in relation to the monies received from them, reporting annually to set out the benefits for the community and have also sent our largest donor, Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd a detailed proposal asking them to consider an increase in their annual payment to maintain the real value of the monies. A response is still awaited.

We are careful to retain a neutral position on any wind farm development in our area, with Community Councils dealing with the consent and construction issues.

With the support of our member Community Councils, we remain focussed on ensuring that, if any wind farm is commissioned, the community benefit monies are paid by the owners in line with best practice and that the community remains at the heart of any decision making on how monies are utilised.

This last point is, in our view, crucial to the successful future of community benefit in our communities.

With this in mind, we have actively engaged with all wind farm developers in our area and sought to build effective, open, and trusted relationships to articulate why we are a community who can make effective use of these potentially transformational sums of money in the longer term.

We welcome the formation of a Glenkens Wind Farm Developer Group to facilitate better engagement with the communities across the Glenkens and maintain regular contact with them.

As local and national debate continues around high quality education in the context of rural depopulation and falling school rolls, GDT took the step of commissioning research in order to provide information and learning regarding how other communities facing similar circumstances are responding.

Chair's Report

Following a tender process, a community research organisation based on Uist, Community Development Lens (CoDeL), was successful in its bid to carry out the work. The report has now been published and Trustees are hopeful it will inform the debate and offer new ways of thinking for community groups on the topic of education, both for the Glenkens and beyond. You can find the report on the Community Action Plan on our [website](#).

We also submitted a detailed response to Scottish Power Energy Networks Community Benefits Framework Consultation in relation to electricity transmission works.

There continues to be interest in how community benefits are utilised from both regional and national bodies and we seek to monitor developments and to put forward our views as required. Our key objective is keeping the community at the heart of decisions on how any community benefit monies are used.

We recognise the importance of being effective in discharging this role and want to learn and share best practice. We also want to work with national and regional bodies who will support us to do the job well. To this end we will continue to take forward work on this important topic over the next year or so.

There were Community Council elections after the year end and we welcome the continued positive engagement from them.

We are delighted with the ongoing support and trust of our donors and the contribution their payments make to our communities.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow GDT trustees, Community Council Members and Associate Members for their support and Foundation Scotland for the expertise they bring to the work of the Trust. Willie Dickson, Richard Middleton and Graham Walker retired as Trustees during the year and we will miss their input.



Chair, Glenkens & District Trust



Who We Are

Our Mission

As a fund distribution body, our role is to **resource, enable and stimulate community development** in the Glenkens and surrounding communities, defined as the Community Council areas of Balmaghie, Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael & District, Dalry, Dunscore, Glencairn, the Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish and Parton.

Our Members

Our members are the Community Councils of Balmaclellan, Balmaghie, Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael and District, Dalry, Dunscore, Parton and the Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Parish. The Trust felt it was important to maintain a link to democratically elected bodies. Members are the only bodies with the power to vote at our General Meetings. We also have Associate Membership open to any individual, institutions organisations and bodies who support and want to engage with the work of GDT.

Governing Document

Glenkens & District Trust is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) with the charity number SC042489. Our governing document is our constitution which was last amended on 9 December 2020. We hold regular meetings of trustees and communicate openly on what is discussed at these meetings.

We have in place relevant policies and guidance to ensure we have an effective governance framework. Details can be found on our website at www.glenkenstrust.org.uk.

Charitable Purposes

The purposes of the Trust as set out in our governing document are:

- to advance citizenship and community development by distributing Wind Farm Community Benefit money and other grants to local groups, organisations, or individuals according to criteria and need as defined from time to time, as well as commissioning and providing funding for projects that will benefit local communities within the Community Council Areas.
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement, including the preservation or conservation of the natural environment or particular parts of it and the promotion of sustainable development. 'Sustainable development' means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- the prevention or relief of poverty including preventing those who are poor from becoming poorer, as well as preventing those who are at risk of being poor from becoming poor.

Who We Are

Trustees

Trustees as of 17.12.2024

Denise MacDonald Kiernan
Appointed by Balmaclellan Community Council

Geoff Monk
Appointed by Balmaghie Community Council

Catherine Seeds
Appointed by Crossmichael and District Community Council

Morag Paterson
Appointed by Dalry Community Council

Allan Todd
Appointed by Dunscore Community Council

Giles Dearden
Independent

Stephen Connelly
Independent

Matthew Shedden
Independent

Fiona Smith
Independent

John McGaw
Appointed by The Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Community Council

Thomas Marshall
Appointed by Parton Community Council

Trustees who served during the financial year 2023–2024

Willie Dickson (retired December 2024)
Appointed by Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council

Richard Middleton (retired October 2024)
Appointed by Crossmichael and District Community Council

Graham Walker (retired September 2024)
Appointed by Dunscore Community Council

What we have delivered this year

1

Resourcing and enabling community development activities

- We implemented the new harmonised arrangement of Glenkens & District Community Fund. This reflects the new multiple sources of income to be distributed by the Trust but maintains one application process for community groups. It also sets up a firm foundation for any future income streams to be integrated into this arrangement.
- We agreed 31 awards from the Glenkens & District Community Fund enabling numerous organisations to deliver projects and services to meet community need.
- We distributed small grants to every Community Council in the fund area of operation to enable local micro funding of projects.
- We supported 45 individuals via the Education and Training Fund.
- We progressed our work on the criteria for the provision of targeted core funding to key community organisations which not only provide significant impact (as many groups do successfully in the area) but also leverage in significant other funds and provide support to their communities and groups in the area. Our aim is to proportionately provide some stability in a turbulent funding landscape and ensure the additional benefits these organisations bring are secure for the benefit of the wider community.
- We maintained an effective working relationship with the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering group.
- We commissioned a research project to explore high quality education in the context of rural depopulation and falling school rolls in order to provide information and learning opportunities.

What we have delivered this year

2

Positive partnership working

- We built on our existing relationships with Members, who have actively supported taking a collective approach across the area in pursuit of best outcomes for all our communities when considering the pipeline of developments in the area.
- We consulted with our Members to enable us to respond in detail to consultations with wind farm developers on community benefits.
- We built relationships with local community anchor organisations to understand their community priorities to enable us to reflect these in fund priorities.
- We continued to work positively in partnership with Foundation Scotland who bring a wealth of experience from their work across Scotland.
- We held a second successful briefing session with local Elected Members to communicate GDT's aims and objectives.

What we have delivered this year

3

Maximising funds for long term benefit

- We have progressed negotiations with Red Rock Power Ltd to secure an additional £112,000 per annum for our communities from around 2026.
- We maintained regular contact with the numerous developers across the area to ensure a good understanding of our approach and the value that the combined fund brings to the area. We also sought to understand the timing and issues associated with their developments to assist longer term planning.
- We worked with Foundation Scotland to use its expertise and work towards building a longer term strategy for the Fund.
- We submitted a detailed response to a consultation by Scottish Power Energy Networks on their Community Benefits Framework Consultation in relation to electricity transmission works highlighting the benefits of local decision making and what we have learned from our work to date.

4

Keeping our communities up dated

- We continue to add content on our website and Facebook pages aiming to make information easily accessible.
- We published an article in the Glenkens Gazette highlighting the work done and the value accrued to our communities.
- We make reports available from every board meeting within one week of our meetings, circulated to our Members and posted on the website aiming to make information open and transparent.
- We approved the Annual Reports to our Funders and made them available on our website.

Fund Snapshot

Financial Overview

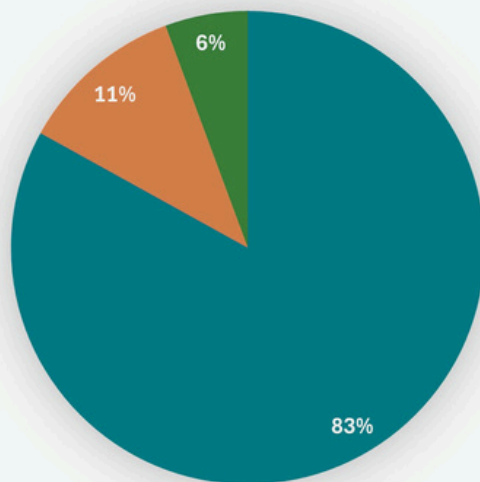
GDT now administers community benefit funds of c.£300,000 from two local wind farms via three separate arrangements:

- Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund
- Windy Rig Wind Farm via CREFL
- Dalry Community Council and the Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells generously allow us to administer their allocation from Windy Rig Wind Farm

In order to distribute these funds in a way that secures maximum impact, GDT continues to work in partnership with Foundation Scotland, a grant making charity with expertise in community benefit. The majority of our funding sources are allocated directly to them to be spent in line with GDT's instructions.

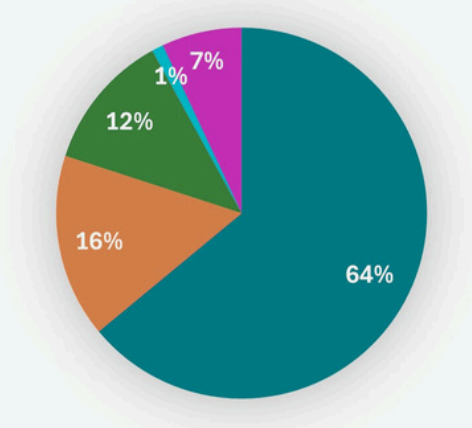
The fund sources and spending themes are illustrated in the charts below:

**Glenkens & District Trust:
Sources of Income**



- Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund (Donor: Temporis Capital)
- Windy Rig GDT Community Benefit Fund (CREFL) (Donor: Greencoat Renewables)
- Windy Rig GDT Community Benefit Fund (Dalry & Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells) (Donor: Greencoat Renewables)

Glenkens & District Trust: Expenditure



- Open Awards
- Education & Training Awards
- Community Council Small Grants
- Early Learning Discretionary Award
- Core Running Costs

Spotlight on Fund Priorities

The Fund aims to create vibrant, sustainable communities where people can thrive throughout their lives. Its priorities are aligned with the local Community Action Plan (CAP), and by taking this approach, GDT acknowledges and supports CAP aspirations while maintaining the flexibility to respond to emerging needs.

The priorities focus on developing a connected, resilient and thriving carbon-neutral community for residents, businesses, and visitors alike and have been broken down into four categories. An example illustrating each priority can be read below.

Fund Priority 1: A Connected Community

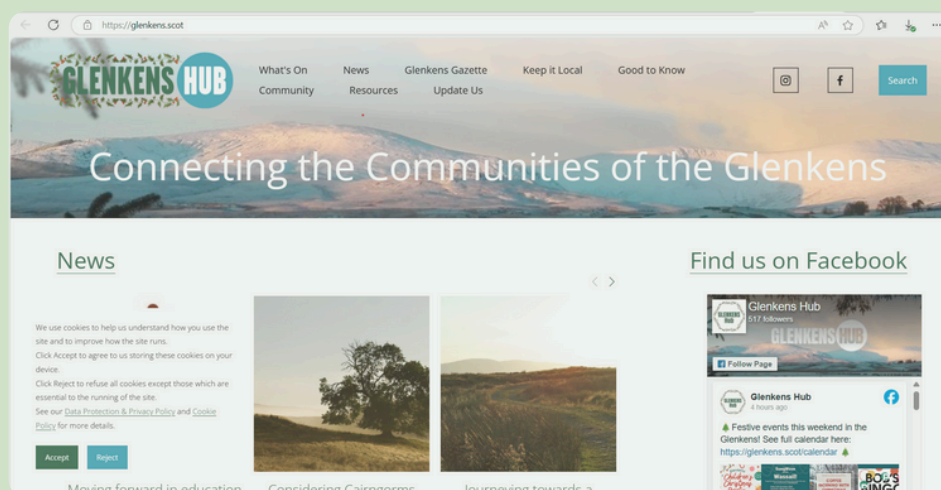
Organisation funded: Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

Project Name: Glenkens Hub

Purpose of Award: To develop, build and maintain the Glenkens Hub, a new website for the community

Award: £15,880

The 2020 Glenkens & District Community Action Plan highlighted a priority action to 'invest in an effective communication tool for the whole community'. In 2021, work was commissioned by GDT and delivered by the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) to consult with local people and organisations and identify options to develop a communication tool for the Glenkens community.



Following on from this, in early 2022 GCAT was awarded £15,880 to develop the Glenkens Hub, a new website for the community.

During the course of the year the Hub website was built and launched in March 2023 at www.glenkens.scot. The Hub aims to meet the needs of residents, organisations and businesses across the Glenkens. It features news stories, events, a community noticeboard and information from community groups, village halls and Community Councils, as well as advertising jobs or volunteering opportunities and business listings. Local reports and resources are brought together in one place, and the Hub hosts the online version of the high valued printed newsletter also delivered by GCAT, the Glenkens Gazette. The Hub has brought together a range of information previously scattered across a range of on and offline resources and met a need for smaller groups, who may not want or be able to develop their own websites, to have a dedicated online space, bringing information together under one roof efficiently and effectively.

"It's fantastic to see one of the key priorities that the communities set out in 2020 coming to fruition in such an accessible and useful way. Many thanks are due to all who worked and volunteered on it – it's been a real team effort!"

Executive Manager of GCAT

Fund Priority 2: An Asset Rich Community

Organisation funded: Propagate

Project Name: Glenkens Food Hub

Purpose of Award: To support the growth and development of the Glenkens Food Hub (now Galloway Food Hub)

Award: £20,200

The Glenkens Food Hub is transforming local food systems in Dumfries and Galloway by connecting communities with sustainable, locally-produced food. Operating as a social enterprise, the Hub serves as a vital bridge between local producers and consumers, offering a fortnightly online ordering service for climate and nature-friendly products, with 95% of sales turnover coming from producers within a 30-mile radius. With support from GDT, the Hub has evolved from a small-scale initiative into a thriving community asset. Activities included the recruitment of dedicated coordinators, investment in essential equipment including fridges and freezers, and the establishment of a base at the Glenkens Community Centre.

Growth and development of the Hub can be seen over the year in that in one year, the Hub's customer base grew from 30 to 116 households, with monthly sales increasing from £530 to £3,040. The project has created meaningful volunteer opportunities for six community members and strengthened relationships with five local producers who contribute their time. A customer survey revealed more than 90% rated the product range as good to very good, with most happy to pay a premium for local, sustainable produce.



Beyond direct sales, the Hub has demonstrated its community value through multiple initiatives. It has donated local food to the Stepping Stones food bank, actively participated in local events like The Glenkens Food Month, and collaborated with the Better Lives Partnership on a youth-focused recipe booklet project. Renamed as the Galloway Food Hub, it continues to work to bring healthy, real food to communities across Glenkens.

"The food hub champions real, local where possible, climate and nature friendly food. It's such a positive and much needed cause which myself, the producers, my co-workers, and customers all whole-heartedly believe in and will fight to keep such initiatives alive."

Glenkens Food Hub Coordinator

Fund Priority 3: An Economically Flourishing Community

Organisation funded: New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE)

Project Name: New Galloway Community Shop

Purpose of Award: To contribute towards staff costs to enable NGCE to continue to provide flexible employment while they continue to work towards self sustainability

Award: £30,000

New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE) is a community benefit society established in 2015 to revitalize and sustain the economic and social wellbeing of New Galloway. NGCE operates the only grocery store in New Galloway village alongside two self-catering holiday flats.

When the shop faced closure after nine years on the market, the community rallied to save this vital asset. Through community shares raising £24,090 and National Lottery funding, NGCE purchased and renovated the premises in 2017.

While the venture works towards sustainability, GDT has provided crucial support through a £30,000 grant over three years, helping maintain eight part-time positions and ensuring the village keeps the resource. The project demonstrates community wealth building in action. NGCE creates flexible employment opportunities, particularly benefiting young people entering work and parents returning to employment. The enterprise supports local producers including Galloway Pasta, Balmaclellan eggs, and Dark Art Distillery, strengthening local supply chains.



The shop and holiday accommodation together attract tourist spending into the area while reducing carbon emissions by providing walking-distance groceries for residents.

Looking ahead, NGCE is implementing changes to boost sustainability, including developing their own booking website, creating a new role focused on the accommodation, and exploring partnerships with local campsites and activity centres. This investment helps preserve a vital community asset while supporting NGCE's transition to a sustainable business model.

"The Shop meets a number of community and social needs... Many have used working in the Shop as a stepping stone onto other things, and within the shop itself, team members have moved from Assistant to Deputy Manager and Manager."

NGCE Board Report

Fund Priority 4: A Carbon Neutral Community

Organisation funded: Crichton Carbon Centre

Project Name: Biosphere Explorers

Purpose of Award: To promote Biosphere Explorers resource packs that will help increase primary school pupils understanding of climate change, biodiversity and sustainability

Award: £3,026

The Crichton Carbon Centre focusses on peatland restoration, carbon management, sustainable land use and environmental education. Biosphere Explorers is a project that uses the local frame of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere to teach pupils about climate change, biodiversity, and sustainability. Glenkens & District Trust supported the Centre to deliver this project to primary schools in the area of benefit (P4-7). Nine sessions were delivered to 165 pupils and a session was also delivered to a group of 30 teachers in their role as climate champions.

Overall, teachers were supported to deliver high quality teaching on the natural world and climate education and pupils' understanding of climate change and their own local biosphere environment was increased.

"Blackcraig Wind Farm Fund allowed us to engage with schools that we hadn't been able to deliver sessions to for years (or ever) and the appreciation of the teachers and pupils was clear. They were all such rewarding sessions, and we hope the pupils understand more about their local area and Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere thanks to the pack. Genuinely, each session was so fun to deliver and the enthusiasm of the pupils was really infectious!"

Education Officer



Spotlight: Education and Training



The Glenkens & District Education and Training Fund was introduced in 2022 and aims to improve access to opportunity and to improve livelihoods. A range of costs can be supported, including course fees where these cannot be paid for from other sources such as student loans or existing employers, and support costs like travel, subsistence, accommodation and childcare.

Forty five awards were made between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024, 11 more than the previous year and the awards totalled £60,782.77, an increase of 28% on the previous year.

Approximately two thirds of the awards supported young people up to the age of 25 and a further third of the beneficiaries were aged between 26+ which was in line with the ages supported in 2022-23.

How the Education and Training Fund Can Help

Rebecca is a former High School student from the Glenkens, who has successfully completed her dental training with the support of an Education & Training grant.

Beginning her career as a dental nurse, Rebecca discovered her passion for health and dentistry and progressively advanced her qualifications, first achieving a BSc in Oral Health Sciences with distinction to become a Dental Therapist.

The Glenkens & District Education & Training Fund provided important support during the final year of dental school, helping offset increased living costs and enabling the purchase of essential study equipment.

The grant proved particularly valuable as government COVID-19 measures extended her training by twelve months, adding unexpected financial pressure during a period of rising energy costs.

Rebecca now works as an NHS dentist and has already joined several professional bodies, including the British Dental Association and the Royal Colleges.

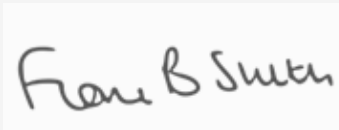
She plans to pursue additional qualifications to become a dentist with special interests and hopes to contribute to dental education in the future.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:

Signature:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona B Smith".

Fiona Smith

Chair

17 December 2024

Annual Accounts

Policy on Reserves

As the Trust does not employ staff or own assets, the Trust's policy is not to hold any significant level of reserve. At the year-end there was £3,278.13 unrestricted funds.

Income and expenditure for the period ended 31 August 2024

INCOME

Carsphairn Renewable Energy Ltd re Windy Rig	£39,600.00
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EXPENDITURE

Foundation Scotland – Glenkens & District Fund	£36,000.00
Venue hire	£120.00
Printing and publicity	£625.25

SURPLUS

£2,854.75

MOVEMENTS IN BANK ACCOUNT

Opening Balance	£423.38
Income	£39,600.00
Expenditure	£36,745.25
Closing balance	£3,278.13

Notes to the Accounts

In accordance with the administration arrangements between GDT and Foundation Scotland, the £36,000 of expenditure was paid to Foundation Scotland as a donation and is held by them in a restricted fund with decisions on the utilisation made by GDT.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Glenkens & District Trust

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on page 17.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Stephen Thorpe Davie
66 Main Street
Dalry
DG7 3UW

Date: 16th December 2024

Acknowledgements

With thanks to Foundation Scotland for assisting with the design and layout for this report.

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Registered Scottish Charity No.
SCO42489